

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 Cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 17-27 Previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 28-38 Cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 39-41 Previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 42-48 Cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 49-59 Previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

60. (Currently Amended) A portable keying device for installing an encryption key into at least one electronic terminal, the portable keying_device comprising:

 a memory device for storing the at least one encryption key; and

 a communications unit coupled to said memory device, the communications unit being operative to transmit said at least one encryption key to an electronic terminal according to a pre-determined format, said electronic terminal including a secure memory location for storing said encryption key, said pre-determined format including transmission of an RF signal at a predetermined power level of less than or equal to 1mW, and transmission of said RF signal in a direction that resides within an angular range of plus or minus 15 degrees or less of a ~~predetermined~~ certain direction, and the transmission of said RF signal having a predetermined polarity.

Claim 61 Cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

62. (New) A portable keying device that is configured for installing at least one encryption key into at least one electronic terminal, said portable keying device comprising:

a memory device for storing at least one encryption key; and

a communications unit coupled to said memory device, said communications unit being operative to transmit said at least one encryption key in a predetermined format to at least one electronic terminal, said predetermined format including a signal having an effective transmitting range of less than or equal to one meter, said predetermined format further including a signal being transmitted from said portable keying device in a predetermined direction;

said at least one electronic terminal includes a secure memory location for storing at least one data communications encryption key and is configured to employ said encryption key for the purpose of encrypting input data.

63. (New) The device of claim 62, wherein the communications unit includes low power-close proximity RF transceiver.

64. (New) The device of claim 63, wherein the predetermined format includes transmitting an RF signal at a predetermined power level.

65. (New) The device of claim 64, wherein the predetermined power level is less than or equal to 1mW.

66. (New) The device of claim 64, wherein the RF signal has an effective range of less than or equal to a meter.

67. (New) The device of claim 63, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction residing within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

68. (New) The device of claim 63, wherein the predetermined format includes transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined polarity.

69. (New) The device of claim 62, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction residing within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

70. (New) The device of claim 62, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction residing within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a central emission vector.

71. (New) The device of claim 62, wherein the at least one encryption key is installed in the electronic terminal in accordance with a predetermined protocol.

72. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the predetermined protocol includes:
performing a handshaking routine, whereby the keying device and the electronic terminal exchange handshaking messages;
transmitting the at least one encryption key from the keying device to the electronic terminal in response to a successful handshaking routine;
validating the step of transmitting by re-transmitting the at least one encryption key from the electronic terminal to the keying device, whereby the keying device compares the transmitted encryption key to the re-transmitted encryption key; and
storing the at least one encryption key in the secure encryption key memory location in response to a successful step of validating.

73. (New) The device of claim 71, wherein the step of validating includes transmitting a test encryption key from the keying device to the electronic terminal.

74. (New) The device of claim 73, wherein the electronic terminal compares the test encryption key with a currently in-use encryption key stored in the secure encryption key memory location.

75. (New) The device of claim 72, wherein the secure encryption key memory location is a memory location in non-volatile memory.

76. (New) The device of claim 75, wherein the non-volatile memory includes E²PROM.

77. (New) The device of claim 75, wherein the non-volatile memory includes EPROM.

78. (New) The device of claim 75, wherein the non-volatile memory includes Flash memory.

79. (New) The device of claim 75, wherein the non-volatile memory includes battery-backed RAM.

80. (New) A method for installing an encryption key in an electronic terminal, the electronic terminal including a secure encryption key memory location for storing the at least one encryption key, the method comprising:

- providing a portable keying device, whereby the portable keying device is physically separated from the electronic terminal, said portable keying device being configured to transmit said at least one encryption key in a predetermined format to the electronic terminal, said predetermined format including a signal having an effective transmitting range of less than or equal to one meter, said predetermined format further including a signal being transmitted in a predetermined direction from said portable keying device;

- pointing said portable keying device toward said electronic terminal;

- performing a handshaking routine, whereby the keying device and the electronic terminal exchange handshaking messages;

- transmitting an encryption key from the portable keying device to the electronic terminal; and

- storing the encryption key transmitted from the portable keying device to the electronic terminal in the secure key memory location.

81. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein the step of performing a handshaking routine includes transmitting an authorization signal from the portable keying device to the electronic terminal.

82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the portable keying device provides the electronic terminal with a predetermined authorization code during the step of transmitting an authorization signal.

83. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein the step of performing a handshaking routine includes transmitting RF signals having at least one predetermined transmission characteristic.

84. (New) he method of claim 83, wherein the at least one predetermined transmission characteristic includes transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined range.

85. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein said predetermined direction includes is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

86. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein said predetermined direction includes is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

87. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein said predetermined direction includes is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a central emission vector.

88. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the at least one predetermined transmission characteristic includes a transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined polarity.

89. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the at least one predetermined transmission characteristic includes transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined modulation format that is characterized by a predetermined programming voltage.

90. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the step of transmitting an encryption key further comprises:

transmitting the at least one encryption key from the keying device to the electronic terminal in response to a successful handshaking routine;

validating the step of transmitting by re-transmitting the at least one encryption key from the electronic terminal to the keying device, whereby the keying device compares the transmitted encryption key to the re-transmitted encryption key; and

storing the at least one encryption key in the secure encryption key memory location in response to a successful step of validating.

91. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein the step of validating includes transmitting a test encryption key from the keying device to the electronic terminal before transmitting the at least one encryption key.

92. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the step of validating includes the electronic terminal comparing the test encryption key with a currently in-use encryption key stored in the secure encryption key memory location.

93. (New) A portable key installation system for installing an encryption key, the system comprising:

at least one electronic terminal having a secure encryption key memory adapted to store the at least one encryption key, and a terminal communications unit coupled to the secure encryption key memory; and

a portable keying device including a memory adapted to store the at least one encryption key, and a device communications unit coupled to the memory device, the device communications unit being adapted to bi-directionally communicate the at least

one encryption key in a predetermined format to the terminal communications unit, said predetermined format including a signal having an effective transmitting range of less than or equal to one meter, said predetermined format further including a signal being transmitted in a predetermined direction from said portable keying device.

94. (New) The device of claim 93, wherein the terminal communications unit and the device communications unit include low power-close proximity RF transceivers.

95. (New) The device of claim 94, wherein the predetermined format includes transmitting an RF signal at a predetermined power level.

96. (New) The portable key installation system of claim 93, wherein said portable keying device includes a display and a keyboard, said display being disposed in a first direction relative to said keyboard, and wherein said predetermined direction at which said signal is transmitted from said portable keying device is substantially the same direction as said first direction.

97. (New) The portable key installation system of claim 93, wherein said portable keying device includes a display, and wherein said portable keying device is configured to display an error message on said display if a key transmission from said portable keying device to said at least one electronic terminal is not successful.

98. (New) The device of claim 95, wherein the predetermined power level is less than or equal to 1mW.

99. (New) The device of claim 95, wherein the RF signal has an effective range of less than or equal to a meter.

100. (New) The device of claim 95, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

101. (New) The device of claim 93, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a certain direction.

102. (New) The device of claim 93, wherein the predetermined direction is a direction that resides within a plus or minus fifteen degree angular range of a central emission vector.

103. (New) The device of claim 95, wherein the predetermined format includes transmitting an RF signal having a predetermined polarity.